

Romans 3

Topics covered:

The advantage of the Jew; unbelief; the faith of God; and some great advice

3:1-2 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

We talked about this the last two weeks. The Jew mainly had an advantage over the Gentile because they had the scriptures.

The oracles of God : the word oracle means revelation or message; so within our context, it is referring to the revelation that God gave to the Jew. (see Acts 7:38, Hebrews 5:12-13 and 1 Peter 2:2-3).

We ought to speak as the revelations of God (1 Peter 4:11).

They knew exactly what God said, what he said to do and not do, how to offer sacrifices, how to live their lives in a way that was pleasing to the Lord (Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Micah 6:8). The Gentiles did not have revelation from God outside of their conscience (Romans 2:14-16) and creation (Romans 1:18-32).

3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

The sin of unbelief

For what if some did not believe? Did not believe what? The immediate context is the *oracles of God* which we know to be the revelations from God penned down in the Holy Scriptures.

No imagine this: Israel, whom God delivered by his mighty hand out of Egypt, dried up the red sea, slew their enemies, fed them in the wilderness, multiplied them as the stars of heaven, brought them to the promised land, did great signs and wonders in the midst of them, ***still struggled with unbelief, and more specifically, their unbelief in what God had said – the scriptures.***

The problem is not believing what God said (Psalm 106:24-24)

Examples:

1. The Garden of Eden - the problem starts and ends with unbelief (Genesis 3).

The serpent deceived Eve into believing that God was lying in saying they wouldn't die, and that he was telling the truth (Genesis 3:4-5). But he didn't flat lie, he gave 2/3rd's truth and 1/3rd error. That's the "hoof print" of Satan. Notice also, Satan likes to mess around with God's word and change it, delete from it, and alter it, and take it out of context (not rightly divide it – see Matthew 4:1-11).

*Matthew 4:1 – notice how the Spirit can lead you into a time and place of temptation, but PRAISE God, he can lead you out of temptation! (1 Corinthians 10:13) God allows the temptation into your life so you can manifest to him your love for him (James 1:12). Passing a trial, that is when you choose to do the Father's will instead of your will, shows your love for him. So let us

look at the temptations and trials that come are way as opportunities to manifest to our Saviour our love for him!

*Matthew 4:5-7 Notice how the devil quotes from Psalm 91:11-12 but takes the passage out of context. The devil tries to apply a second coming of Christ passage to the first coming of Christ. The Lord, simply responds, **it is written AGAIN!**

Did you know the whole creation was cursed because of someone's unbelief in what God said about a tree? Did you know a man's soul is saved unto eternal life because of his belief in what God said about a tree called Calvary?

2. Satan (1st mention) provokes David to number Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1-8)

You ever wonder why Satan provoked David to number Israel and why it was sin against God to do so? Some think David did it because of pride; he wanted to know how great and mighty his kingdom was. That may be true, but I also think there is something else.

What was the temptation back in the garden? Yea hath God said? Satan got Eve to question, then doubt, and eventually disbelieve the word of God. The same thing is going on here. If you were an Israelite back in those days, and even today, you know about God's promise to multiply Israel as the stars of heaven. I believe Satan was provoking David to number Israel to see if God was doing what he said he would do. Is God really keeping his promise? Has he multiplied you like he said?

Have you ever had those kinds of thoughts in your head? God said this but how come... God promised to me this but why... The Lord said he would do this but... where is he?

Does that sound like us sometimes? How many times does the Lord manifest himself and then in a time of trial we don't believe in the promises of God?

3. Many didn't believe the Scripture so they didn't believe in Jesus (John 5:37-47).

If you don't believe and receive the revelation God has given you, you won't believe and receive further revelation from God.

Whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23).

Unbelief that Jesus is He, causes one to die in his sins (John 8:21-24).

The apostles asked the Lord one time, Lord, increase our faith (Luke 17:5). If you want faith, I know whereby you can get more. The scripture says, so then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17)

Now look at Romans 10:13-17. Notice the sequence of events that most occur before someone comes to faith in Jesus Christ.

1. Someone must preach [the word] to them (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

2. They must hear the word and believe what was preached (1 Corinthians 1:21)

3. Then they shall call upon the name of the Lord and be saved (Romans 10:13)

The faith of God is not contingent upon your faith or lack thereof

“Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?”

This is one of the many great statements in the book of Romans. If some of the Jews didn't believe God, does their unbelief make God's faithfulness to his word and promises null and void? God forbid! Just because some believe, many believe, or few believe doesn't affect the faith of God at all. This is a blessing.

We know from the Bible that God is faithful (Deuteronomy 7:9-10)

*Specific application of God's faithfulness to Jesus (Isaiah 49:5-10, Isaiah 53:1)

Just because men despise Jesus Christ, and the nation of Israel abhors him (now), doesn't mean God will be unfaithful to his Son nor does it mean God hasn't been faithful to his word. He still has chosen Jesus Christ to be a Prince and Saviour. He has made that same Jesus both LORD AND CHRIST! (Acts 2:36, Psalm 2:1-12).

Just because the Jews rejected him, doesn't mean God has been unfaithful. He promised a promised seed would come. He said the Messiah would come after the second temple was built. He said he would be born of Bethlehem of Judah. He said he would be a descendant of king David. He said he would heal the sick, cast out devils, raise the dead. He said his Messiah would bear our sins and die for our iniquities. He said he would raise him from the dead. AND GUESS WHAT? IT ALL CAME TO PASS; HALLELUJAH!

Regardless of whether a man believes it or not, God has been faithful to his word. The problem is not with God, the problem is with you. He kept his end of the covenant. HE IS CALLED FAITHFUL AND TRUE amen?

Just as the children of Israel couldn't enter into the promised land because of unbelief, a man cannot enter into a relationship with God because of unbelief (Hebrews 3:18-19). If you believe and receive him, you are given the authority to become a son of God, being born again (John 1:12-13).

3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

The best thing we can do is believe God is true and every man is a liar. This is the fact of the matter. God is always true and always faithful. All men are liars and sinners. Start with that, and build on that foundation. LET God be true and everyman a liar. We know that his word is truth (John 17:17, Daniel 10:21). Let it be true and all the foolishness of man false.

In the end we will all give an account of ourselves to God. All will be convinced that God is faithful and true. He is just! He is holy! His name is reverend! He is Almighty! Trust in him, believe in him, call upon him. He alone is worthy of all the glory, honor, and praise we can give him! Praise ye the LORD!